SPAWN
image
316
DIGITAL EDITION
TODD MCFARLANE
CARLO BARBERI

WORLD RECORD BREAKING COMIC!

SPAWN

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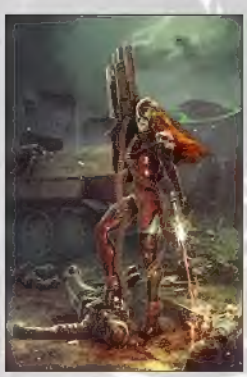

PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN*

Previously: Cult of Omega – In a serene Tropical Paradise, there lurks a dark secret. Hidden away from the world, Omega Spawn has been amassing power and prisoners. Trapped on Earth, he seeks a way back to the stars. Unfortunately for him, Al Simmons has arrived to stop him. But will the help of former enemies and unknown behemoths be enough to stop Omega and the oncoming Plague?

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TODD McFARLANE
PRODUCTIONS
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THREE. THAT'S ALL THEIR COMPUTER TRACKING RADAR HAD INITIALLY PICKED UP.

THE PRESENCE OF THE GIGANTIC FORCE CALLED "OMEGA SPAWN" WAS THE FIRST BLIP, THE REASON SPAWN WENT TO THE ISLAND TO BEGIN WITH.

THE SECOND CAME FROM SPAWN HIMSELF.

AND THE THIRD POPPED UP WHEN MEDIEVAL SPAWN SEEMINGLY APPEARED FROM NOWHERE.

THERE WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE A FOURTH.

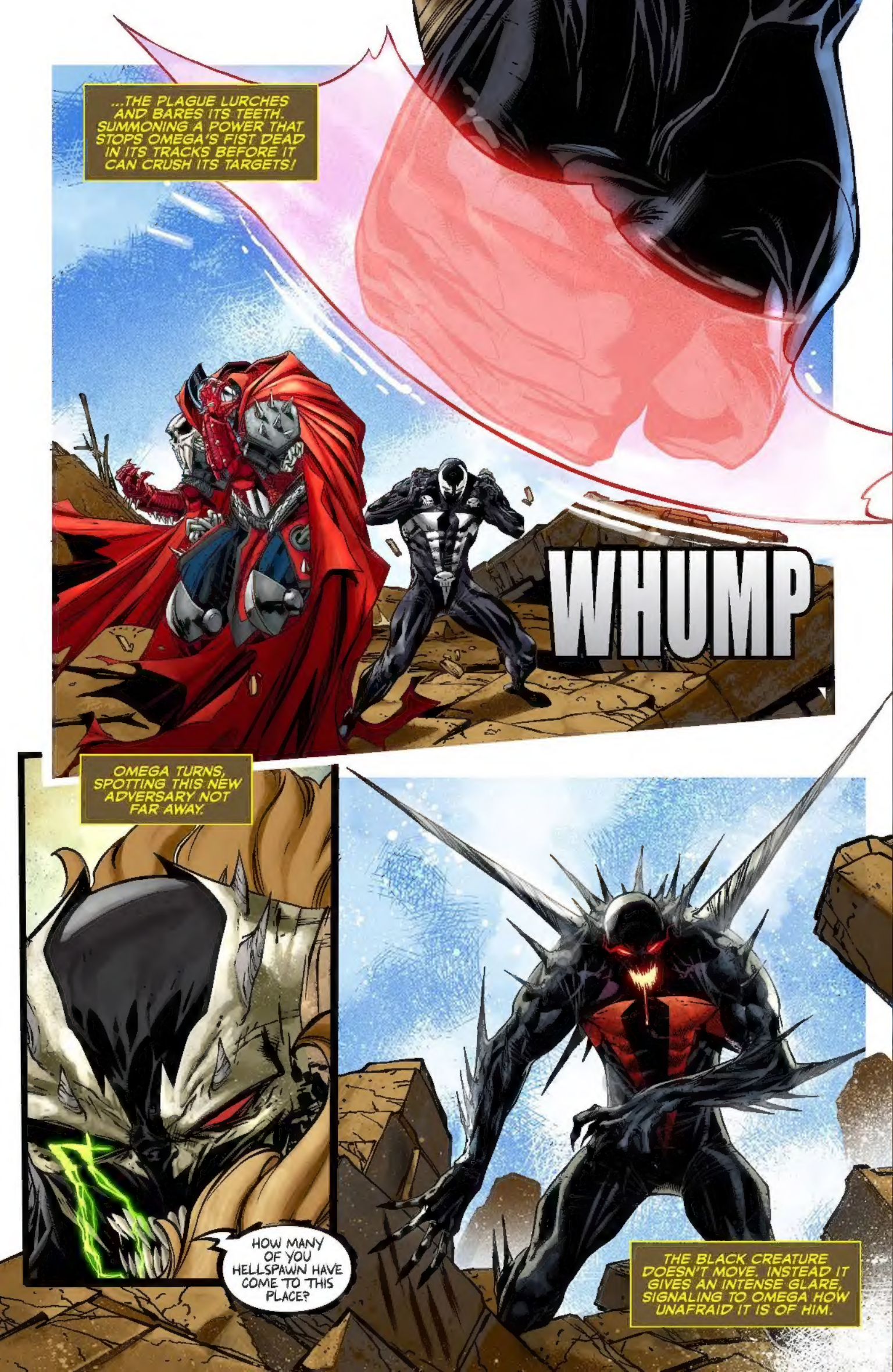
BUT ITS HERE. CRAWLING ON ALL FOURS AS IT SLITHERS FROM THE BOTTOMLESS PIT WHERE OMEGA SPAWN HAD RECENTLY THROWN HIS NEW CAPTIVE, COGLIOSTRO.

AS THE CREATURE SLOWLY MOVES INTO THE DAYLIGHT, PARTS OF HIS BODY EBB AND POUR ACROSS EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH. SPREADING ITSELF IN EVERY DIRECTION AT ONCE. LIKE SOME BLACK, INKY TAR, OR MAYBE MORE LIKE SOME ANIMALISTIC DISEASE BENT ON CONSUMING ITS PREY...ITS HOST... LIKE SOME KIND OF

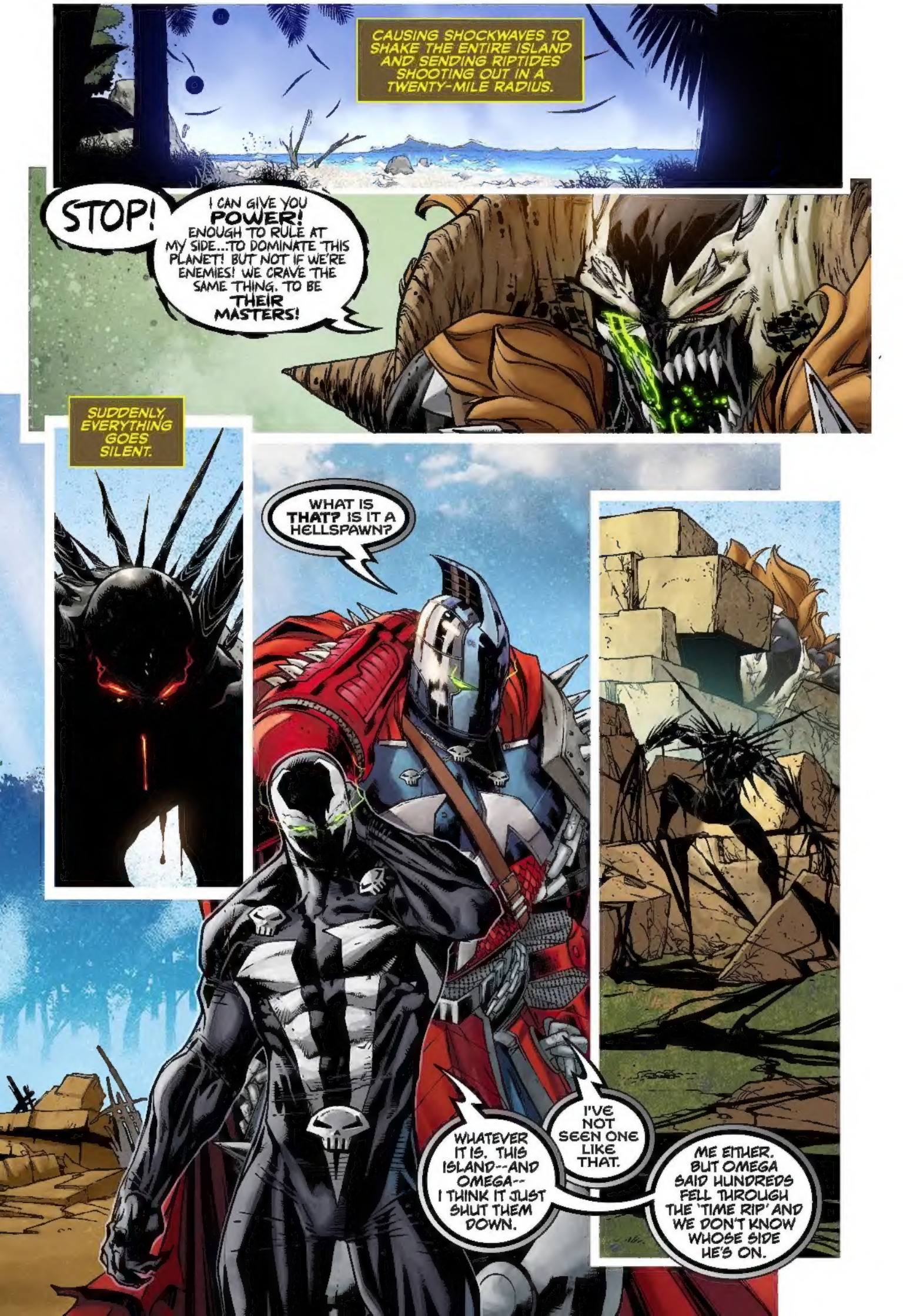
PLAGUE!

AND THOUGH A BARRAGE OF SONIC WAVES FILLS THE AIR WITH THE PITCH OF TEN THOUSAND DECIBELS, THIS 'THING' SEEMS UNTOUCHED BY IT.
THE SUN'S RAYS APPEAR MORE PROBLEMATIC, BUT ONLY FOR A MOMENT, AS THIS PLAGUE QUICKLY ADAPTS.
THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID FOR EITHER SPAWN OR HIS MEDIEVAL COUNTERPART.

BOTH HEROES FEEL LIKE THEIR HEADS ARE ABOUT TO EXPLODE AS THE PRESSURE FROM THE SOUND WAVE INTENSIFIES LIKE A SWIMMER GOING EVER DEEPER IN THE WATER.
LET'S END YOUR PAIN RIGHT NOW!
AS OMEGA REARS BACK...


...THE PLAGUE LURCHES AND BARES ITS TEETH. SUMMONING A POWER THAT STOPS OMEGA'S FIST DEAD IN ITS TRACKS BEFORE IT CAN CRUSH ITS TARGETS!
WHUMP
OMEGA TURNS, SPOTTING THIS NEW ADVERSARY NOT FAR AWAY.
HOW MANY OF YOU HELLSPAWN HAVE COME TO THIS PLACE?
THE BLACK CREATURE DOESN'T MOVE. INSTEAD IT GIVES AN INTENSE GLARE, SIGNALING TO OMEGA HOW UNAFRAID IT IS OF HIM.

AS THE SPIKED CRETIN MOVES NEARER, A HAUNTING HISS FAINTLY REVERBERATES A BIT LOUDER WITH EACH STRIDE IT TAKES.
THE INTENSITY GROWS LOUDER, LIKE AN ANIMAL CAUGHT IN SOME PAINFUL HUNTER'S-TRAP. THEN ITS CHEST HEAVES AS IT DRAWS IN ONE LAST GASP OF BREATH, ALLOWING THE SONIC WAVES TO BE THE ONLY DOMINANT SOUND. THEN...
IT UNLEASHES A SICKENING SHRIEK-- THE SOUND OF A SOUL, TORTURED-- UNWILLING TO SUPPRESS ITS PAIN ANY LONGER!
A SOUND THAT HAS THE SAME EXCRUCIATING EFFECT ON OMEGA AS THE SONIC WAVES HAVE ON SPAWN.
THEN THE SCREAM DOUBLES IN FEROCITY!


CAUSING SHOCKWAVES TO SHAKE THE ENTIRE ISLAND AND SENDING RIPTIDES SHOOTING OUT IN A TWENTY-MILE RADIUS.
STOP!
I CAN GIVE YOU POWER! ENOUGH TO RULE AT MY SIDE...TO DOMINATE THIS PLANET! BUT NOT IF WE'RE ENEMIES! WE CRAVE THE SAME THING. TO BE THEIR MASTERS!
SUDDENLY, EVERYTHING GOES SILENT.
WHAT IS THAT? IS IT A HELLSPAWN?
WHATEVER IT IS. THIS ISLAND--AND OMEGA-- I THINK IT JUST SHUT THEM DOWN.
I'VE NOT SEEN ONE LIKE THAT.
ME EITHER. BUT OMEGA SAID HUNDREDS FELL THROUGH THE 'TIME RIP' AND WE DON'T KNOW WHOSE SIDE HE'S ON.

SPAWN, THEY'RE FLANKING OUR LEFT. GET BEHIND ME! THEY'VE GOT WEAPONS!
THOUGH NEWLY RELEASED INTO OUR WORLD, MEDIEVAL SPAWN HAS SEEN THE KIND OF DAMAGE THIS MODERN WARFARE CAN CAUSE.
THOUGH WEAK, SPAWN KNOWS HE HAS TO ACT AS HE SUMMONS HIS CAPE TO REAPPEAR.
WE NEED COVER, YOU'RE NOT READY FOR THAT KIND OF FIREPOWER, YET!
I'LL FOLLOW YOUR LEAD!
SHIK
SHIK
SHIK
SHIK

AS THE HEROES SEEK SHELTER, OMEGA IS CONFRONTED WITH A BATTLE HE'S NOT ACCUSTOMED HAVING TO WAGE. RARELY IN HIS DECADE'S LONG TRAVELS HAS HE FACED ANY OPPONENTS CAPABLE OF STANDING UP TO HIS ASSAULTS. YET NOW HE MUST DEAL WITH THREE OF THEM.

I'VE KILLED THOUSANDS, BUT I ALWAYS KNEW WHY THEY FOUGHT BACK. YOU... WHAT'RE YOU DEFENDING? OR ARE YOU ONE OF THE 'BASTARDS OF PURGATORY' THAT SLIPPED THROUGH A CRACK?

HIS INITIAL PLAN WAS TO ONCE IMPRISON SPAWN. IN HIS DESIRE TO USE SPAWN TO HELP INTERROGATE HIS SWORN ENEMY COGLIOSTRO, HE STILL DOESN'T KNOW HOW MEDIEVAL SPAWN FOUND THEM OR WHAT THIS OTHER HELLSPAWN WANTS.

BUT HE KNOWS THE THING STANDING IN FRONT OF HIM IS DIFFERENT SOMEHOW BECAUSE ALL SPAWN'S HAVE EYES OF GREEN. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE'S SEEN ANYTHING LOOKING CLOSE TO A HELLSPAWN NOT HAVE AN EMERALD STARE.

MORE ENRAGING, OMEGA DOESN'T KNOW WHY HE'S HERE AS IT SEEMS TO HAVE AN AGENDA ALL ITS OWN.

WHAT NOW? YOU'RE GOING TO ASSERT YOURSELF, HOPING TO WASH AWAY YOUR PAST FAILURES. YOU'RE A 'REJECT'-- THAT'S WHY HELL THREW YOU OUT AND WHY HEAVEN WON'T TOUCH YOU!
HOPING TO GOAD HIM, A GUTTERAL HISS IS THE ONLY RESPONSE OMEGA RECEIVES
SAY SOMETHING!
THE BLACK CREATURE DOESN'T--OR PERHAPS CAN'T--WHICH ONLY INFURIATES OMEGA FURTHER
A WAR HAS BEGUN, AND NOT ALL OF US THAT HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO THIS TIME CAN CO-EXIST. JUST A FEW OF US, THE STRONGEST OF US, WILL SURVIVE!
YOU LONERS WILL BE THE FIRST TO GO!

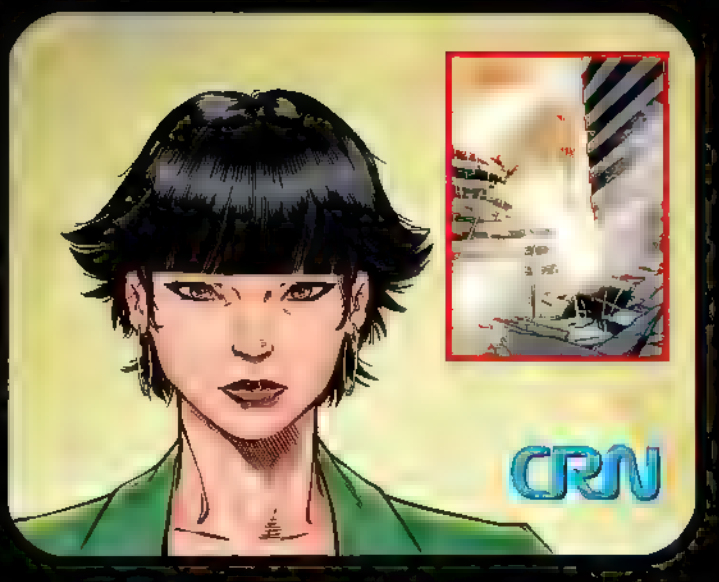
PLAGUE SPAWN STRAIGHTENS OUT HIS BODY. IT'S AN ACT OF DEFIANCE, LIKE AN ANIMAL ASSERTING THIS TERRITORY IS HIS
AT THE SAME TIME OMEGA WOUNDED AS HE IS, BEGINS TRANSFORMING HIS HORNS INTO A PAIR OF BATTERING RAMS.
THEN CHARGES FULL FORCE, DESTROYING EVERYTHING IN HIS PATH. EVERYTHING EXCEPT HIS INTENDED TARGET.
THOOM
WHO SIMPLY LEVITATES AWAY.

FLOATING LIKE SOME SOULLESS GOD, TAUNTING HIS ENEMY BELOW.
YET EVEN THE MOST CONFIDENT OF WARRIORS CAN UNDERESTIMATE AN OPPONENT. IN THIS CASE, IT'S THE QUICKNESS OF OMEGA'S NEXT MOVE
A SPEED THAT SNATCHES PLAGUE IN MID-AIR.
DO YOU HEAR THAT? THOSE ARE YOUR BONES BEING CRUSHED!

BECAUSE WITH MALEBOLGIA AND SATAN BOTH DEAD, ONLY ONE SPAWN WILL TAKE OVER HELL'S EMPTY THRONE. AND WHOEVER LAYS CLAIM TO THAT TITLE WILL ALSO RULE EARTH.
I INTEND TO BE THAT NEW KING.
shank
shank
shank
SOME SHALL RESIST THAT CLAIM

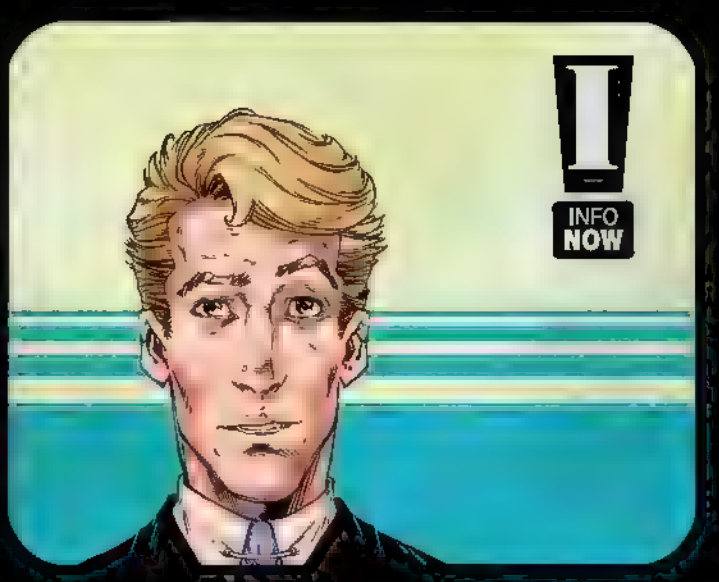
GUKK
OVER HIS SHOULDER, SPAWN SEES OMEGA SUSTAIN ANOTHER INJURY. HE ALSO SEES THE GIANT REACTING DIFFERENTLY THAN WHEN HE RECEIVED HIS OTHER WOUNDS...AND THAT REACTION DOESN'T BODE WELL FOR ANYONE!
OMEGA'S POWERING UP! SOMETHING'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN!
SPAWN'S INSTINCTS ARE CORRECT. AS PLAGUE IS TOSSED ASIDE
HIS ENERGY BUILDING IN INTENSITY UNTIL
IT STARTS SMALL AT FIRST. THEN OMEGA CHANNELS AS MUCH POWER AS HIS WEAKENED BODY WILL HARNESS

TO BE CONTINUED...



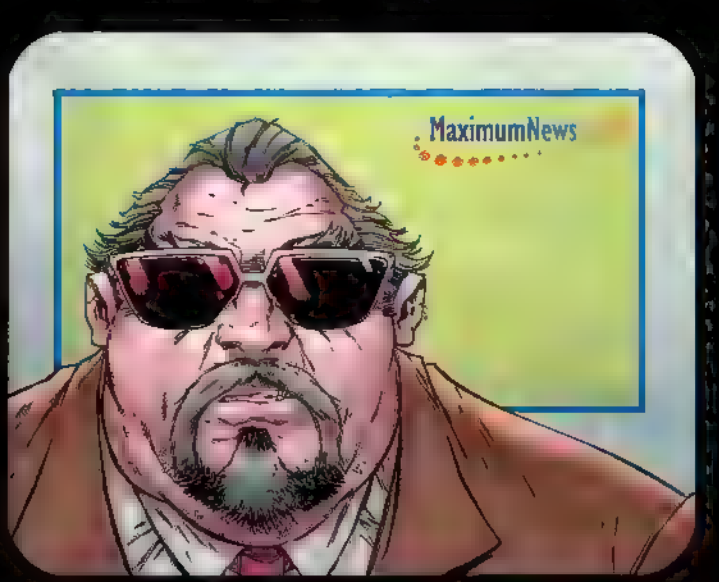
...WE APOLOGIZE, EVERYONE, BUT I'VE JUST RECEIVED SOME BREAKING NEWS. OUR FOREIGN BUREAUS ARE REPORTING THAT AN UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER OF EARTHQUAKES HAVE SIMULTANEOUSLY HIT WELL OVER TWO DOZEN LOCATIONS ACROSS THE GLOBE. MORE REPORTS ARE POURING IN.

WE ARE ALL TRYING TO COMPREHEND WHAT THIS MEANS... BUT WE SIMPLY DON'T HAVE ANSWERS AT THIS TIME. WE WILL CONTINUE TO...



I...

THIS LATEST UPDATE IS BEYOND ANYTHING I CAN SATISFACTORILY ***EXPRESS.*** EVENTS OF THIS NATURE HAVE NEVER HAPPENED IN RECORDED ***HISTORY.*** SO, WE'LL WAIT UNTIL WE HAVE FURTHER...



IN GOD'S GOOD NAME...

WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?!

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL. NEAR THE MUSEUM OF ART ON AVENUE PAULISTA.
FELIX U. GOMEZ
HONG KONG. IN THE LAI KING HILL AREA
HAVING BEEN OUT ON HER OWN MISSION, SHE-SPAWN IS UNAWARE OF ANY CURRENT GLOBAL EVENTS. HER FOCUS HAS BEEN TO ASCERTAIN THE EXTENT OF DISRUPTION CAUSED BY SPAWN'S RECKLESS ACTIONS.
MARC!
*See issue 301 -- Todd
YOU HERE?
SHE FINDS IT STRANGE HE DOESN'T IMMEDIATELY ANSWER AS HE'S USUALLY STUCK TO THE COMPUTER CONSOLES IN HIS ATTEMPT TO TRACK DOWN AS MANY "ROGUE" ELEMENTS AS POSSIBLE. MORE SPECIFICALLY, TO HUNT AND LOCATE ANY AND ALL POSSIBLE HELLSPAWNS HE CAN DETECT.
THE PROBLEM IS THAT WHEN ONE DOES POP UP, NO ONE KNOWS IF IT IS FRIENDLY OR NOT, SO SPAWN HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING A FEW KEY FINDINGS ON HIS OWN.
THAT PISSES SHE-SPAWN OFF. SHE'S CAN'T SEEM TO GET HIM TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ALL HAVE THE SAME COMMON GOAL: TO ELIMINATE THE EXISTENCE OF ANY 'SHADOW PLAYER' HIDING ON THIS PLANET.

AND FOR JESSICA, IT IS EVEN MORE PERSONAL AS SHE'S STILL TRYING TO FIND OUT WHY SHE WAS GIVEN THESE SPAWN POWERS AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHO KILLED HER FRIEND NYX
BUT NOW A FEW READINGS ON THE SCREEN HAVE GRABBED HER ATTENTION
AS SHE LISTENS TO GOVERNMENT CHATTER AND FREQUENCY STRENGTHS OF RADAR BLIPS, SOMETHING BECOMES CRYSTAL CLEAR
MARC!
WHERE ARE YOU, MARC! YOU NEED TO HEAR THIS!
THE WAR THEY'RE FIGHTING IS ABOUT TO BECOME A FULL ON INVASION

8:9:3:6

SPAWNING GROUND

PRESENTS:

THE BREAKDOWN

INTERVIEW WITH CARLO BARBERI

Can you take a moment and take us through your process for working on Spawn? How to you build a page?

My pleasure. Like every other comic book artist whose job is to be a penciler, I get a script from the Writer, in this case Todd, after I read it, I imagine what it's going to look like in my head and split the panel grid on my board. Then I go panel to panel, drawing what I had in my mind, these are not random thoughts since you have to think how the page is flowing and make it smooth for the reader to follow without any trouble. The next step is to send the sketch to approval, if it's good to go, I jump into inking and wrap the page up.

Issue 315 inks by **CARLO BARBERI**

What was your favorite page to draw so far?

There has been so many, but if I have to say one, it's the first time I drew Spawn in all his glory in issue #311. I guess mostly because it was the first-time people were going to see my version of Spawn in print.

What do you consider your essential tools for creating comics?

Well, I think I use everything, from a simple HB pencil to doing everything digital. A little before I started drawing Spawn, I started working in an iPad Pro with Procreate to save some time. But that's a lie, hehehe, it takes me

Issue 311 colors by [illegible]

Issue 313 inks by **CARLO BARBERI**

the same time to do it old school. Lately, I'm getting a little bored of digital and I'm planning to go back to old school paper really soon. In paper, I use a 0.5 with blue lead and jump directly to ink with brushes, nibs, pigment liners and cotton, napkins or my fingers for textures.

As the current Spawn artist, you have been part of re-introducing some classic characters back into the story, (Cy-Gor, Overt-Kill) as well as introducing some new ones, (Monolith, Plague). What are your thoughts about that?

When I first spoke to Todd about working on Spawn, one of my first thoughts was where is Overt-Kill and if we can somehow re-introduce him, but before I could say anything, Todd told me he was bringing back the big guy! For me it was more than enough, but then he started introducing and re-introducing these awesome characters and I've been more than happy working on them. I mean, who doesn't want to draw a huge guy beating a hero right?

What is your advice for up-and-coming artists looking to break into comics?

Things have changed since I broke into comics, for me it was a long road. Sending sample pages to Editors in different companies and getting those sad rejection letters a 100 times… But the world wasn't connected like today, Editors are watching like everybody else, so show your stuff on social media. You never know who's watching. And make it a habit to upload something daily. Ask for feedback. This doesn't mean sending samples to the big companies has to stop, send those too. Last but not least, the most important thing of all this is to polish your story telling, this is a very important part of the job. People can say whatever they want about your style, it doesn't matter, some people might like it and some people don't. But if they start talking about struggling to follow the page, you are failing and that's a big problem! So watch US comics, European graphic novels, anime, manga, movies and try to figure out why the Directors or Artists are using certain angles, framings and moods of the scenes to evoke certain emotions. This will help you to be better at your craft.

Issue 312 colors by
PETER STEIGERWALD & JAY DAVID RAMOS

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Sex, drugs, and murder in 1980s Los Angeles...

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WRITTEN BY SPAWN CREATOR:

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